



Room 20 Update



December 2016

Reading

In reading we are working on developing fluency, basic comprehension skills, vocabulary, making inferences and drawing conclusions. The students have been learning to reread to find correct answers as well as details to support answers they have written.

When reading with your child at home ask questions that invite recall AND thinking. For example, "Why do you think ____ happened?" or "What do you think ____ means?" Urge rereading to build comprehension as needed.

They're still young enough to be read aloud to – model expressive reading. When they read aloud to you encourage just-right pacing (not too fast, not too slow). Demonstrate how to attend to the punctuations (pausing at the end of sentences, adding expression based on the punctuation mark).

The more your child reads the better reader he/she will become.



What does my grade mean?

- 4 95 – 100 *I understand!
- 3 75 – 94 *I mostly understand.
- 2 60 – 74 *I understand some.
- 1 Below 60 *I do not understand.
*I need to ask for help

Math

In math we have been concentrating on the fluent recall of basic facts. To be considered firm in the knowledge of the facts your child should be able to tell you the fact's answer in three seconds or less. Your child should firmly know all of the basic addition and subtraction facts through to 20. We have been working on the understanding of what multiplication and division mean. At this point each student should be working on memorizing the basic multiplication facts that have 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 10 as a factor. The grade reflects how well they have been doing on our written times tests and on telling me the answer. We will be adding the few facts left to learn with x6, x7, x8, and x9 factors by Christmas. The class has been working on the understanding of division and I will start quizzing the class on the basic division facts after Christmas. It has been proven that a firm recall of all basic facts will lead to success in math in later grades and therefore they are stressed in third grade. Much of the memorization of the facts must be done at home since we have many more math concepts to be learned in math this year and have to move on after Christmas to fractions.

We are also working to learn to break word problems apart using reading strategies so they may be solved successfully. The grade on the report card for this trimester reflects how your child has been doing solving single-step word problems independently. We have been working on multiple-step word problems as a class and by the next report the students will be graded on independent work on multi-step word problems.

Merry Christmas!!

